

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

SEP 24 2007

ID SINCE 1877

MBER 6, 2007

VOL. 131

No. 35



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Miss. Baptists thank those who helped

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Mississippi Baptist pastors gathered in Gulfport on the evening of August 30 to celebrate the Cooperative Program, remember Hurricane Katrina two years after the killer storm devastated the Gulf Coast, and bid an appreciative farewell to two Baptist state conventions that have managed major response, relief, and recovery programs since shortly after the storm.

The Georgia Baptist Convention and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina were recognized for their commitment to remain on the Mississippi Gulf Coast for the two years since the storm, coordinating volunteers and supplies as well as pouring money into the response and relief effort.

J. Robert White, executive director and chief executive officer of the Georgia Baptist Convention, was on hand at the annual Cooperative Program dinner, held this year at the Great Southern Club in the Hancock Bank tower in Gulfport.

"Georgia Baptists love Mississippi Baptists. We really do," White said.

As the hurricane cleanup began, Georgia Baptists established a headquarters at First Church, Bay St. Louis, and worked from there across the Coast for the next two years.

"Great spiritual growth occurs in the storms of life," White said. "You tell me how much we have meant to you, but I cannot describe what this has meant to us — how we have been deepened by you and by how our lives have been impacted by your faithfulness to the Lord, your straightforward devotion to sharing Christ with everybody, and your recognizing Christ in the midst of the storm."

"We have been so blessed by the experience we will never be the same again."

White described how he composed a letter immediately after the storm that was sent to the 3600-plus churches of the Georgia Baptist Convention, asking them to conduct a special, one-Sunday offering for the hurricane relief effort.

"Many of them did so not only that Sunday, but also the next three Sundays," White said, recounting that Georgia Baptist churches gave over five million dollars to the special offering. "I was overwhelmed. They did that because they care about you, our other brothers and sisters in Christ along the Coast, and those people we love who don't know Jesus."

Because of that generosity, White said, the state convention was able to help fund every Georgia Baptist church group that



SPECIAL THANKS — Georgia Baptists attending a special thank-you dinner August 30 in Gulfport and surveying a plaque of appreciation from Mississippi Baptists include (from left) J. Robert White, executive director and chief executive officer of the Georgia Baptist Convention; Shelia Cowart; Doug Todd; Wayne Bruce; and Rhett Speies. The five Georgia Baptists are among the hundreds who have been active in that state convention's two-year relief, response, and recovery effort to the devastation caused in Mississippi by Hurricane Katrina. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

asked for assistance to get to the Mississippi Gulf Coast and aid in the relief, response, and recovery effort.

He also pointed out that only three-fifths of that five million dollars has been spent thus far and even though Georgia Baptists folded their formal presence on the Coast at end of August, the remainder of the special offering proceeds would continue to be spent on the recovery from Katrina.

"We're going to be sending people over here for a long time yet," he pointed out.

White also recited testimonies from Georgia Baptists who have been involved in the Katrina relief and recovery effort.

One unnamed University of Georgia student, he said, was given a set amount of money by her parents to ride the university's bus system to her classes on the sprawling campus. White described how she gave that money to the special offering, knowing she would have to walk everywhere she went for a whole semester.

"Her 'trip fee' was all she had, and she freely gave it to go and to serve. That's kind of what it is to be a Christian, isn't it?" White asked. The student also volunteered to come to the Mississippi Gulf Coast as part of the Georgia Baptist effort, he added.

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, presented White with a large plaque of appreciation for Georgia Baptists on behalf of Mississippi Baptists. The plaque, a collection of photos of the

Georgia Baptist effort, contains the wording, *With Deepest Gratitude to the Baptists of Georgia for their Christ-centered partnership with the State of Mississippi.*

Futral also unveiled a similar plaque for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, expressing thanks to the people of that state convention for their two-year effort along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Milton A. Hollifield Jr., executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, was scheduled to attend the dinner along with White but was unable to get there in time when his airplane flight to Gulfport was diverted to Pensacola, Fla., due to a large electrical storm that plagued Gulfport most of the afternoon of August 30.

"Had it not been for God's people on the Coast and God's people all across the nation, there's no telling what kind of condition we would be in," Futral said. "Every disaster relief unit in the Southern Baptist Convention came. They have come from everywhere, to help us and serve us and love us."

Futral also thanked the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Gulf Coast churches for their faithfulness to the Cooperative Program, noting that Coast churches actually gave more to the Cooperative Program after the hurricane than the year before the hurricane.

"I want you to know, from the bottom of our hearts, you are our heroes over and over and over again," Futral said.



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Matt Broome
mbroome@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Mack Amis, McComb
James Beasley, Crystal Springs
Al Green Jr., Bay St. Louis
Rick Henson, Brandon
Beverly Pyron, Natchez
Billy Watkins, Madison
Dana Richardson, secretary

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 131 • NUMBER 35
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

Coming soon to Mississippi?

Iowa Code 595.20, Foreign marriages — validity.

The national assault on traditional marriage and families scored another victory last week when an Iowa district court judge invalidated that state's law banning homosexual marriages in his jurisdiction.

Polk County, Iowa, may seem to be several light years away from Mississippi, but we should take note of this latest effort to legalize perversity and immorality through the legal system.

Proponents of same-sex marriage concluded long ago that their pet cause would never make it through the Congress or state legislatures.

The explanation? Simple. Same-sex marriages are not the will of the people. Under our system of governance — a democratic republic guided by a written constitution — the will of the people has prevailed over the special-interest politics of same-sex marriage.

Iowans have made their views on marriage clear in state law:

Iowa Code 595.2, Subsections 1 - 2

1. Only a marriage between a male and a female is valid.

2. Additionally, a marriage between a male and a female is valid only if each is eighteen years of age or older. However, if either or both of the parties have not attained that age, the marriage may be valid under the circumstances prescribed in this section.

A marriage which is solemnized in any other state, territory, country, or any foreign jurisdiction which is valid in that state, territory, country, or other foreign jurisdiction, is valid in this state if the parties meet the requirements for validity pursuant to section 595.2, subsection 1, and if the marriage would not otherwise be declared void.

Having failed with legislators — who as elected officials are uniquely attuned to the will of the people — proponents of same-sex marriage have moved their campaign to the court systems of this country. In this case, homosexual activist group Lambda Legal filed suit in Polk County in December 2005 to overturn Iowa's law on same-sex marriage.

Although they have failed numerous times to gain the rulings they desire from reasonable judges who understand their limitations under our system of governance and take seriously their role in that system, there have always been a few histrionic jurists intent on legislating from the bench and grabbing public attention through controversial (and just plain wrong-headed) rulings.

Iowa District Court Judge Robert B. Hanson issued such a ruling last week, using the Lambda Legal lawsuit to strike down Iowa's marriage laws in Polk County and order local officials to issue marriage licenses to homosexual couples. Hanson's ruling, which ran on to more than 60 pages, contained such gems as, "[L]esbian and gay parents are as effective as heterosexual parents in raising well-adjusted children," and "[C]hildren do not need male and female role models in the home to develop normally."

Hanson holds a law degree from the University of Iowa and an undergraduate

degree from Stanford University, but it could not be established just what training, education, or experience Hanson possesses that would lend credibility to such statements. He even criticized the U.S. military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, although as a local judge he obviously has no jurisdiction over such national matters.

Hanson ultimately issued a stay while his ruling is being appealed to the Iowa Supreme Court, but the damage was already done. More than 20 same-sex couples, apparently pre-staged and ready to rush the Polk County Courthouse immediately after Hanson's ruling, applied for marriage licenses.

According to the Des Moines Register newspaper as recounted by Baptist Press, one homosexual couple received their license, found a judge to swiftly waive the three-day waiting period prescribed by law, and had a Unitarian minister ready to conduct the ceremony. What an incredible series of coincidences!

Could this happen in Mississippi? We have more than our share of capable judges in this state who would no doubt protect the sanctity of marriage from this well-organized onslaught aimed at our legal system, but we probably have a few who would like to grab headlines as did Hanson.

All of us have enough going on in our lives to keep us busy and distracted, but those who would manipulate our legal system aren't so busy and distracted that they will ever abandon their goal of nationwide, legally-recognized same-sex marriage. Polk County, Iowa — the state's most populous county and home to the state capital, by the way — is a clear indication of their strategy.

Let's not let that happen in Mississippi, in our capital county or anywhere else in the state. Be aware, and be in prayer.

So. Baptists leaders critical of hostage deal

GHAZNI, Afghanistan (BP) — The Taliban released the final seven South Korean Christian hostages Aug. 30, capping a six-week ordeal in Afghanistan that saw two hostages killed and ended only when the South Korean government agreed to a controversial deal that has been questioned by at least two Southern Baptist leaders.

The crisis began July 19 with the kidnapping of 23 men and women who were on an Afghan mission trip sponsored by Saemmul Presbyterian Church just outside Seoul. Two of them were killed in late July, and the Taliban threatened to kill more, placing pressure on the South Korean government to take action. South Korean officials began meeting with Taliban representatives in face-to-face negotiations Aug. 10.

Finally, on Aug. 28, a South Korean presidential spokesman announced that a deal had been reached. The Taliban would free the remaining 19 hostages (two had been released in mid-August) if South Korea banned Christian missionar-

ies from Afghanistan and kept its promise to pull its troops out of the country.

Critics said the deal would endanger other foreigners both Christian and non-Christian — and such fears apparently were legitimate. Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi promised to attempt more kidnappings.

"We will do the same thing with the other allies in Afghanistan, because we found this way to be successful," he told the Associated Press via cell phone.

All 19 hostages are in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates and were scheduled to arrive back in South Korea on September 2, BBC News reported. One of the hostages, Yu Kyeong-sik, said she was "very sorry" for the ordeal.

"I've had sleepless nights, thinking of what we have caused to the country," she said, according to South Korea's Yonhap news agency.

The Taliban initially had demanded the release of Taliban prisoners in exchange for the release of the hostages, but during negotiations South

Korean officials told Taliban representatives they had no authority to release the Taliban prisoners since the prisoners were being held by the United States military and other governments, said South Korea presidential spokesman Cheon Ho-seon.

No money was involved in the agreement to release the hostages, Cheon added.

Two prominent Southern Baptists, including Southern Baptist Convention President Frank Page, criticized the deal when it was announced.

"I have prayed for the release of these hostages," Page told Baptist Press. "I have spoken to persons within our own government about this situation. I have spoken with several persons in the Korean Christian community. So, therefore I am delighted that they are being released — but I am saddened about some of the conditions for the release."

"I had encouraged the Koreans not to negotiate with terrorists, and had hoped that they would be released out of sheer human kindness and/or military intervention.

While the statement is made [by the South Korean government] that missionary work will stop, God's work will not stop in Afghanistan."

Daniel R. Heimbach, who worked in the administration of former President George H.W. Bush and currently serves as professor of Christian ethics at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., said, "While I rejoice that terrorists are releasing innocent victims, I am truly saddened by the conditions to which the government of South Korea has agreed. Matters of international justice should not be dictated by those who threaten the lives of aid workers motivated only by love."

"Christian aid workers and missionaries put their lives on the line every day and, while Christians believe that physical life is precious, we also believe that sharing the Good News of eternal life is worth vastly more. The government of South Korea has acquiesced to terms no Christian can accept and no one called of Jesus Christ can obey."

Christian relief effort quashed in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (BP) —Head bowed, Drew Neely (not his real name) expected ridicule as he approached a crowd of approximately 500 Bangladeshis. After a sixth day of waiting in offices and pleading with official letters, Neely still was unable to receive final permission from authorities to distribute food that had been assembled for the crowd.

Yet, rather than accusations and raised fists, the comment that rose from the crowd was "bhaalo" (good). As they pointed their fingers at him, several began to cry, "Good man. Good man."

"I can say the public isn't mad at us," Neely said after the Christian relief effort to Bengali Muslims was prohibited for the final time on Aug. 21. Neely had repeatedly requested permission to distribute the food — an approval that would have afforded protection to help ensure the food would go to its intended recipients and not be misused.

"The community has had an opportunity to see me pour my life into this project and work extremely hard to show love to them," Neely reflected.

"They understand he's trying to help them," said Thad Crisler (not his real name), a Southern Baptist relief worker. "To me, that was a recognition of his faithfulness to them to try to make that happen."

Neely and three South Carolina volunteers, along with 50 local volunteers, had tried to put nearly 2,000 22-liter containers of food and medicine into the hands of those affected by monsoon-induced flooding in the southern part of Dhaka, the nation's capital.

The effort was partly funded by the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Approximately 700 Bangladeshis have died over the past month and thousands more suffer from water-borne illnesses such as cholera and dysentery from contaminated floodwater.



HELP NEEDED, HOPES DASHED — Hundreds of Bangladeshis gathered each day for a week in hopes of local permission for Southern Baptist volunteers to distribute food to provide relief from monsoon flooding. Christian relief workers were ultimately unable to convince government officials to allow the food distribution. (BP photo)

To people in South Asia, mentioning flooding in Bangladesh is like Americans discussing a rash of tornados in the spring — it happens every year. Yet, for these people living sometimes less than 30 feet above sea level, the yearly expectation of more disease, more hunger and more suffering is a recurring tragedy.

Bangladesh is one of the world's most densely populated countries, with approximately 150 million people (primarily Bengali Muslims) in an area the size of Iowa.

Tin homes on stilts become self-contained islands as they rise above the floodwaters across southern Dhaka. Their eight-foot-high floors hover only six inches above the flood line, leaving families to scramble for shelter.

For Rabia, a 60-year-old grandmother, her heavy, wooden bed had to be tied near rafters with green string as floodwaters filled her home. One of her grandchildren, less than a year old, suffers from diarrhea.

In another location, 10-year-old Sharmin and other family members slept on the roof of their three-room home for two nights when the flood line was at its highest. Two families, 10 people in all, who live at the home have access to only one boat, which makes traveling difficult.

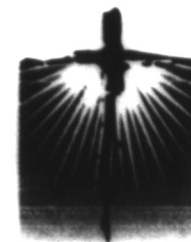
For hundreds of families forced to abandon their homes, an impromptu community was set up under a bridge spanning one of Dhaka's main rivers. Sheets define borders for each family group area as children find empty patches of ground

to play on next to rescued sheep and goats.

"It ain't easy being a blessing in Bangladesh," South Carolina volunteer Dewey Ogburn (not his real name) said. "I can't make a difference in every person's life in Dhaka, but I can make a difference in one person's life."

Sitting at the food distribution site that never opened wasn't wasted time for the volunteers. They talked with the national volunteers about their faith. One man responded, "Keep going. Tell me more."

"By the world's standards, I don't know that you can call what we did this week a success," Ogburn said, "but when you look at the cross, it wasn't considered a success by worldly standards either, and yet it changed the world forever."



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND
FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

VOL. 131

No. 35

Graham returns home

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP) — Evangelist Billy Graham, 88, was released Aug. 30 after being hospitalized nearly two weeks for intestinal bleeding. A colonoscopy on Aug. 22 revealed that the bleeding likely was caused by a tangle of small blood vessels in the lining of the colon, called an arteriovenous malformation (AVM). According to a Mission Health & Hospitals news release, Graham was "successfully treated with cauterization, and there has been no further evidence of bleeding." Only rarely is AVM surgery required, the hospital noted. "Bleeding from an AVM may be chronic, causing anemia, or it may be rapid, as it was in Mr. Graham's case," the hospital release also stated. Graham's physician, Lucian Rice, an internal medicine specialist, was quoted in the news release as giving an optimistic prognosis: "We have been pleased that he has been able to come back from this incident as well as he has. He will continue to have therapy at home, and I feel that he can have a very good recovery." Upon his release from the hospital, Graham was taken back to his home in nearby Montreat, N.C. Graham suffers from Parkinson's disease and age-related macular degeneration, as well as other health problems. He last spoke publicly at the funeral for his wife Ruth in June.

Looking back

10 years ago

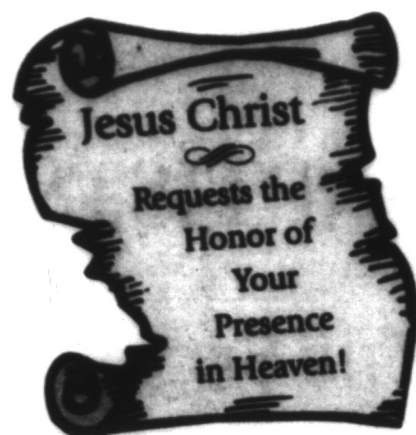
Jonathan Kirk, son of Southern Baptist missionaries Tom and Carolyn Kirk, is one of 24 members of the Westminster Abbey boys choir that performed before world leaders and celebrities at the funeral service for Princess Diana Sept. 6.

20 years ago

First Church, Byhalia, observes a Day of Praise. The church moved into a new building in 1971, leaving older buildings practically deserted. The 1866 sanctuary has been remodeled into a new fellowship hall with a kitchen and dining room with seating for about 135. Ken McMillen, pastor.

30 years ago

About 20 Mississippi pastors and other leaders who will make a preaching mission tour to South America in October meet in Jackson at the Baptist Building for a planning and briefing session. The group will visit Argentina, Panama, Columbia, Peru, Chile, Ecuador, Venezuela, and Brazil.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

PASTOR APPRECIATION

Several years ago, October was designated as Pastor Appreciation Month. I am not absolutely sure where it began, but I believe a national civic club began to take a day and express appreciation to the pastors and spiritual leaders in the community and it spread from there. One thing is for sure, it is not a self-promoted idea by the pastors of any one church or denomination. In fact, I have never even heard one of our pastors mention it or write about it.

While I think it is a worthy idea, I also believe that any time is an appropriate and good time to express your love, appreciation, and support to your pastor. In biblical terms, we are to be kind, considerate, supportive, and appreciate one another all of the time. I have known of churches that had Pastor Appreciation Day in October. But in September and November there were groups within the church trying to run the preacher off. No, I am not anti-pastor appreciation! I am in favor of pastor appreciation all of the time!

Through the years, one of the things that I have observed that has sometimes surprised me and occasionally shocked me is the lengths to which some people will go to be unappreciative of their pastor. They will grumble and say something like, "Well, that is what he is called to do, so he should do it. That is what he is paid to do. If he doesn't like being a pastor, then he should get out and go



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

somewhere else." Those kinds of comments are actually revelations of the heart of the person who says them. The person who does not have and cannot develop a gracious and thankful spirit towards others is going to be destined to live in a gloomy, grouchy, little world.

It is a worthy and good thing to express gratitude to those who serve and lead you. Hebrews 13:17 says, "Obey them that have the authority over you and submit yourselves for they watch for your souls." Pastors care more than you will ever realize, work more than you will ever know, and carry more burdens that you can imagine.

Across our state, there are great pastors in every direction you turn. They are men who are called of God, true to the Word of God, faithful in leading the people, devoted, loving God's flock, and compassionate toward a world of people lost in their sins. They are gifted, godly, good-hearted, and growing saints. If you would like to do something good for your pastor, let me offer some helps.

Pray positively — By that, I mean to pray that God's will might be done in your pastor's

life and in the life of your church. It is interesting to see what happens when groups of folks start getting together to pray about their pastor. They may start praying that God would send him on to serve in another field or to change his mind about something. I've even known people who were so perturbed in their heart and disturbed in their mind that they wanted to join together and pray that God would just take their pastor on to glory. The problem with most of that kind of praying is that it violates the scripture as James says, "You ask amiss, or miss the point, only to get your will done." What if folks prayed positively for their pastor asking God to lead him even if it means changing him or changing them? What if they prayed asking God to help them to come together as they were when they first called their pastor when they were ready to get on with great Kingdom work, and had a great vision for the Lord's church? Pray positively!

Listen intently — God does use pastors as His spokesmen to speak a word to our hearts. Sometimes the word comes to

guide us through a personal crisis we may be facing. Then at other times, it solidifies the body of Christ to say, "This is the way, walk ye in it." It helps the church to move forward. Sometimes it is a word of encouragement and other times a word of challenge. Do you care? Do you listen intently?

Recently, I heard about a man who received a heart transplant and his old heart was functioning only at 7%. While that is amazing, I wondered how many of us have ears that function at only about 7% or less. Listen intently and God will speak to your heart.

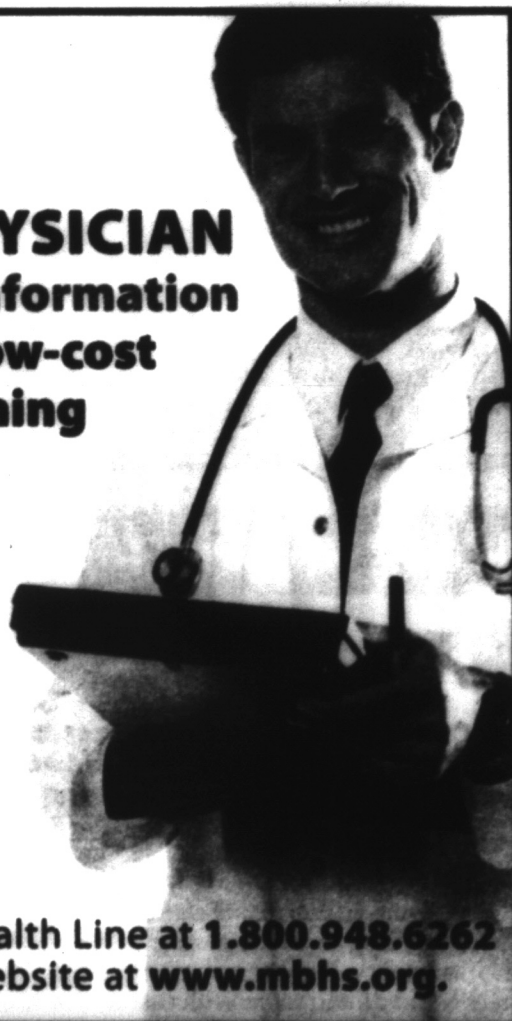
Show genuine appreciation — Ingenuous expressions of appreciation are not only false, but they are also hurtful. Can you imagine Senator Ted Kennedy making a speech expressing appreciation for the great leadership of President George Bush? Can you imagine Governor

Arnold Schwarzenegger being invited to come to an appreciation dinner for the great leadership provided by the former governor, Gray Davis in California? Even if he went and regardless of what he said, it would be empty, cynical rhetoric.

Send a note. Make a call. Bake a pie. Share a gift. Do something to show appreciation to your pastor, but do it genuinely. May God richly bless each of you who bless those who serve you!

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 — 0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

- FIND A PHYSICIAN
- Get Health Information
- Schedule a low-cost health screening



Call the Baptist Health Line at 1.800.948.6262
or visit Baptist's website at www.mbhs.org.

Baptist
HEALTH SYSTEMS

The Spirit of Healthcare

STAFF CHANGES



1. Crozier and family

1. First Church, Foxworth, has called Kevin Crozier as minister of young adults effective Sept. 1. He comes from pastoring Holly Springs Church, Marion County, with his wife April and two children. Charles L. Nail, pastor.

churches as well as Lake Forest Ranch.

2. Cato Church, Cato, has called Paul Wilson Young as pastor, effective Sept. 9. He comes from County Line Church, Ovet, with his wife Angela and daughter Christian.

3. Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg, has called Stuart Shoemake as youth minister. Shoemake has served in other area



4: Bullock and wife

4. Louin Church, Louin, has called Mark Bullock as pastor effective Aug. 15. He is shown with his wife Janet.

GREAT NATION INVESTMENT CORP. FIRST MORTGAGE CHURCH BONDS EARN UP TO: 8.25%

These bonds may be placed in a self-directed IRA. Transfers and rollovers accepted, in most cases.

Interest Payable Quarterly

This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy. All offers are made by prospectus only.

GREAT NATION INVESTMENT CORP.
5408-A Bell • Amarillo TX 79109
Member NASD, SIPC

For more complete information about bond issues, obtain a prospectus which describes all of the particulars of the undertaking. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. All bonds are offered at face value, subject to availability.

CALL OR RETURN THIS TO:

Martin Northern 800-468-3007
PO Box 1302 501-316-3100
Benton, AR 72018-1302 Fax 501-316-3110

Please send me information on the First Mortgage Church Bonds currently being offered by Great Nation Investment Corp.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

September 6, 2007

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



Mississippi Baptist STATE LITERACY MISSIONS CONFERENCE



October 4, 1 p.m. - October 6, 1 p.m.
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

- **Basic Adult Reading and Writing**
(Begins at 1:00 on Thursday)
- **Basic English as a Second Language**
(Begins at 1:00 on Thursday)
- **Tutoring Children and Youth**
(Begins at 1:00 on Thursday)
- **Experienced English as a Second Language**
(Begins Friday at 10:00)
- **Chronological Bible Storying**
(Begins Friday at 10:00)

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: September 26, 2007

Register at www.mbc.org

For more information, contact Paula Smith at MBCB
1-800-748-1651, ext. 336, or E-mail: psmith@mbcb.org

PROGRAM PERSONALITIES

DONNA AINSWORTH

Magee, Miss.
Retired School Librarian
and Trainer for Book Systems, Inc.

KARY BARTH

McKinney, Texas
Regional Manager
Kapco Book Protection

MARY BROUSSARD

Denham Springs, La.
Library Ministry Team Leader
Hebron Baptist Church

HOPE FERGUSON

Natchitoches, La.
Library Ministry Team Leader
First Baptist Church

SANDRA FITTS

Corinth, Miss.
Library Ministry Team Leader
First Baptist Church

CHERYL SWAIN

Madison, Miss.
Library Assistant
First Baptist Church

PEGGY TACON

Mobile, Ala.
Library Ministry Team Leader
Dauphin Way Baptist Church

MARTY WOODALL

Deatsville, Ala.
Library Ministry Team Leader
Shoal Creek Baptist Church



36th Annual CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 5-6, 2007
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
BROOKHAVEN, MISS.



SPECIAL GUEST: Dinner Speaker

Lori Copeland, began her writing career in 1982, writing for the secular book market. After several years of writing, Lori sensed that God was calling her to use her gift of writing to honor Him. To date, she has more than 95 books published. Learn more about our author from her Web site: www.loricopeland.com.



For more info, contact Judy Chen, Communication Services, 1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3378, or jchen@mbcb.org

2008 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST ALL-STATE YOUTH CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA Audition Dates (in 2007 for 2008 CHOIR - Open to 9th-12th Graders)



Saturday, September 15
Baptist Building, Jackson
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sunday, September 23
Immanuel BC, Natchez
2 - 4 p.m.

Monday, September 24
FBC, Summit
4 - 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 29
North Oxford BC, Oxford
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sunday, September 30
Hernando BC, Hernando
2 - 4 p.m.

Tuesday, October 9
FBC, Winona
4 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 11
Fairview BC, Columbus
4 - 8 p.m.

Saturday, October 13
FBC, Meridian
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Saturday, October 20
William Carey University,
Hattiesburg
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sunday, October 21
Grace Memorial BC, Gulfport
2 - 4 p.m.

Sponsored by the Church Music Department, MBCB. For more information, call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 266, cwtaylor@mbcb.org, or visit www.mbc.org for registration form and audition preparation info.

RA'S
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

MISSIONARIES
FOOTBALL PLAYERS
RA RACER DISPLAY
MUSIC ...

RA DAY
SEPTEMBER 15, 2007
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE • CLINTON

GA
Mother / Daughter
Overnight
September 21-22
October 19-20

For mothers and their GA daughters (grades 1-6) to share the excitement of missions learning. Activities include worship, campfire, crafts, recreation and a missionary visit. Overnights begin at 5 p.m. on Friday and end at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Cost \$40 per person
Registration deadlines:
September Overnight - Sept. 7
October Overnight - Oct. 5

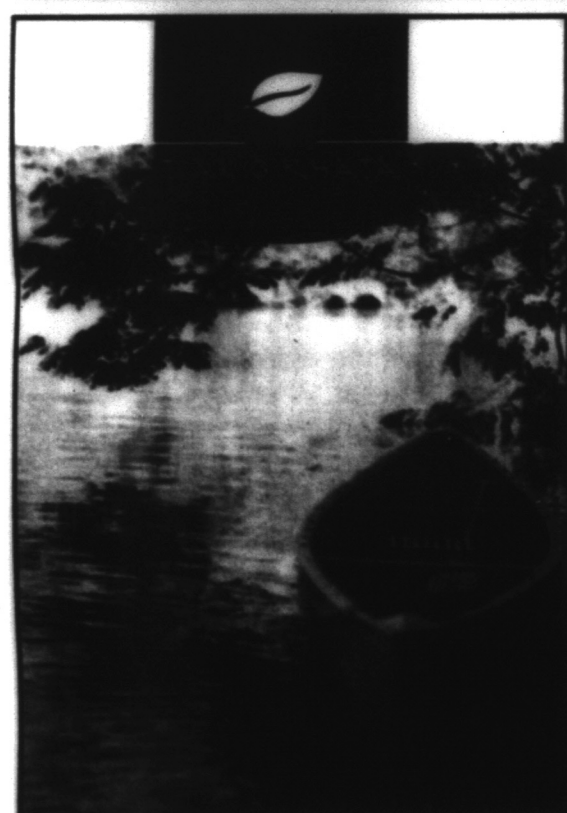
For more info: wMu
601-292-3316, 1-800-748-1651 or
lhatch@mbcb.org



FAMILY LIFE
CONFERENCES
Monday, September 17
Gum Grove BC, Brookhaven
(601-833-7102)

6:30 p.m. Light Meal
7:00 p.m. Conferences:
• "Steps to a Godly Home"
Don Hicks, MBCB
• "Finances for the Family"
Jerry Mixon, MBCB
• "Legacy of Love in Marriage"
Glenn Shows, MBCB

Sponsored by Lincoln County Association and MBCB



YOUTH MINISTER'S
RETREAT

NOVEMBER 8-17



Will Beady



Richard Ross



Benny Proffitt

MAKE YOUR MOTEL/MEAL RESERVATIONS WITH

LAKE TIAK O'KHATA

1-888-845-6151

For more info, contact the Discipleship &
Family Ministry Department
601-292-3283, 1-800-748-1651
or redwards@mbcb.org

2007 DISCIPLESHIP
Rally
IMPACT YOUR WORLD
Speaker:
Jim Futral
MBCB
September 16, 6:00 p.m.

IMPACT
YOUR WORLD!
September 16, 6:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church
Kosciusko - Gym
Attala Baptist Association
Featuring: Airhead the clown
Music: Lisa Crosby

IMPACT
YOUR WORLD!
September 16, 6:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church
Kosciusko - SON Building
SPEAKER
Gary Fermenter
MUSIC
Kevin Williams

2007 DISCIPLESHIP
Rally
Speaker:
Thomas Strong
NOBTS
September 23, 5:00 p.m.

*Come apart
before you
come apart!*



Ministers'
Mates
Luncheon and
Conference



Special speaker
Rita Sweatt

Music: *Ever Praise*

Monday
Luncheon and
Conference

Enjoy the sweet
ministers' spouses and
EverPraise.

Following lunch
Wives Conference in
Auditorium with special
Pre-reservations
Lunch and Registration

For more information
Kathy Burns (Kathy
the conference coordinator
Department, Kathy Burns
601-292-3305)



2008 BAPTIST DOCTRINE STUDY

preview brunches

with Matt Buckles

First Baptist Church, Vicksburg, pastor

Monday, January 28, 9 a.m. - noon

Central Illinois Baptist Retreat

Tuesday, January 31, 9 a.m. - noon

Patterson Place, Camp Garaywa

Registration is requested by January 18. The \$10
registration fee includes the full brunch and LifeWay's new
study course book, **THE BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE**
by Charles S. Kelley, Jr., Richard Land and
R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (2007).

For more info: Discipleship & Family Ministry Dept.
601-292-3287, 1-800-748-1651 or rdicks@mbcb.org

ISSUES FACING PASTORS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

A presentation and dialogue sponsored by

- Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. (MBCB)
- New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
- Our Three Mississippi Baptist Colleges

TOPICS

- Church Conflict
- Worship Trends
- Church Governance
- Leadership Styles

1 p.m.

Presentation of
D Min. program

October 1 – Blue Mountain College

October 22 – William Carey University

October 23 – Mississippi College

Time (all locations): 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Lunch provided by the Pastor/Leadership Development Department
Register by contacting Kay McDonnell at 601-292-3305,

Fax 601-714-7426

or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org.



Monday, October 29, 2007

CAMP GARAYWA

Church: 1:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Session: 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The sweet fellowship of pastors' wives and other
wives along with good food while listening to

g lunch in the Garaywa Dining Hall, the Ministers'
event begins at 1:30 p.m. in the Garaywa
with special speaker, Rita Sweatt.

Registration for lunch are required. Cost: \$7 per person.
Registration Deadline: Monday, October 22.

For more information about lunch, contact wMu Department,
kburns@mbcb.org or 601-292-3324) or about
lunch, contact Pastor/Leadership Development
Kay McDonnell (kmcdonnell@mbcb.org or
5)

National wMu Missions Event



**Immanuel
Baptist
Church**

**Little Rock,
Arkansas**

Oct. 17-20

For more
information
visit
www.wmu.com.



Outreach Strategy Tour: *Developing True Acts 1:8 Churches*



NEW

• **FAITH Update**
Dean Abernathy
LifeWay Church
Resources

• **Share Jesus
Without Fear**

Glenn Shows
Discipleship and Family
Ministry Dept., MBCB
Don Hicks
Discipleship and Family
Ministry Dept., MBCB

• **One-Won-1**

P.J. Scott, Pastor Emeritus
FBC, Olive Branch
Mike Aultman, Pastor
Military Baptist Church
Sumrall

• **GROW**

John Clendinning
Sunday School Department
MBCB

Designed for: Pastors,
Ministers of Education,
Sunday School Directors,
Outreach Directors,
Discipleship Training
Directors, Mission's
Leaders, and anyone
interested in learning
more about these
outreach tools.

Time and Place

6:30-8:30 p.m.
(time for two
workshops)

October 8
Crossgates BC
Brandon

October 9
FBC, Pontotoc
October 11
FBC, Summit

For more information, contact the Sunday School
Department at 1-800-748-1651, ext 291, or in Jackson
at 601-292-3291, or E-mail cday@mbcb.org

Pray this day for...

September 7- 20, 2007

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

John Forrester (Tern) is regional church starter among the Eskimo people in the Arctic of Alaska. Praise the Lord for 27 decisions recently during a Cross-Walk mini crusade in the Northwest Arctic of Alaska, where an old rustic cross was carried from village to village sharing the Gospel along the way.

Summer 2007 - North American Missions Prayer-Gram

A, one of the internally displaced people of Colombia, shared that he understood both the message and the application of the story of Jesus calling the 12 disciples. He stated that Jesus was calling him through the story to join those 12 men and become one of His disciples. Pray for A. and many others who have heard Jesus calling them to follow Him.

(1) Anti-Gambling (CAC Emphasis); (2) A young Sokoto Fulani man of Niger, named A., recently became a believer. A. is the only believer in his village. His father is a religious leader. Pray for A.'s walk with Christ to be strong as he grows in his faith, and for his family to come to know Isa (Jesus) as Savior.

(1) Bible Drill Clinic, FBC, Tupelo (D&FM); (2) Pray for O., who loves to visit with her international friends, but doesn't take the gospel seriously. Because of her relationships with believers, many people have had a chance to hear the gospel. Pray for G., who values her friendship with an international more than a relationship with the Savior.

(1) Church Related Vocations Banquet, William Carey University, Hattiesburg (P/LD); (2) January Bible Study Preview Clinic, Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain (SS); (3) Ask the Father for His blessings on the baptisms in Urumqi, China, that are coming up for the new believers who have begun a relationship with His Son.

(1) Bible Drill Clinic, Hillcrest BC, Jackson (D&FM); (2) Five years ago, the lives of the Koyaka were turned upside down by conflict in Cote d'Ivoire. What a man intended for harm, God intends for good. Please pray that out of the misery and loss of this people, a hunger to know the truth of God will arise.

(1) January Bible Study Preview Clinic, BSU, Delta State University, Cleveland (SS); (2) Pray for strength and wisdom for J., a national worker among Indians of the Pacific Rim as she ministers to the unsaved Tamils in her community. She is a widow, in poor health and supports two daughters.

During two recent prayerwalk hikes among the Amhara people of the Ethiopian highlands, Bibles were given to Orthodox priests in isolated rural areas. They were so thrilled to receive them and some did not have a Bible. One of the priests was so excited that he acted like a child with candy. The last time his church was given a Bible was 34 years ago.

(1) January Bible Study Preview Clinic, Mississippi College (SS); (2) Tom Martin, church extension specialist for the Southern Nevada Association, prays God for a family of six (including a 1-year-old grandmother) who were recently baptized in the Vietnamese Baptist Church of Las Vegas. Pray for continued growth in their walk with the Lord.

(1) Bible Drill Clinic, FBC, Lucedale (D&FM); (2) Eric and Lyudia Van Patten of Grass Valley, Ca., are church planters experiencing tremendous growth in both their church and family. About 275 people attend and they have nine children. Pray for the members to plant new churches and for their new baby to settle into sleeping at night.

(1) January Bible Study, William Carey University, Hattiesburg (SS); (2) More than 1 million nomadic Tamashel Muslims live in the deserts of West Africa. They understand the importance of water and the need for good rainy seasons. But, they don't know the One who is the "fountain of living water." Many in this generation have never heard of Jesus.

(1) Special Ministries Retreat, Camp Garaywa, 7th - 8th (SS); (2) Bobby Gilstrap is DOM with the Huron and Southeastern Associations. Pray that many churches/associations will attend the Vision Tours, Sept. 25th - 26th, and many partnerships will be formed to mobilize thousands of volunteers to work with the 30 churches in these two associations.

(1) Chaplains' Training, Baptist Building, Jackson (MM); (2) Mississippi Parents Fellowship, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 14th - 15th (wMu); (3) Hattiesburg Seminar, FBC, Raymond, 14th - 15th (CM).

In answer to our prayers, the evangelistic dramas that were presented in the inner city of Mexico City were tremendously fruitful. Hundreds were in attendance, and a good number of people were convicted of their need of the Lord. Please pray for the three new house churches that will be following up on the decisions that were made.

(1) Flake's Formula for the Future, FBC, Winona (SS); (2) Robert Bradshaw is a Navy chaplain stationed in Japan. Praise God for the chapel programs that over 4,000 people attend weekly. Pray for summer programs, and for youth and VBS summer opportunities.



NOVEMBER

FLAKE'S FORMULA

a Sunday school conference with a focus on ministry

Saturday
September 15, 2007
First Baptist Church, Winona

Schedule: 9 a.m. to noon

Conferences will be offered for:

Preschool Leadership	Children's Leadership
Student Leadership	Younger Adult Leadership
Older Adult Leadership	General Officers/Pastors

Keynote Speaker at all locations

Jimmy Draper

For more information, contact the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 291, or in Jackson at 601-292-3391 or E-mail cday@mbcb.org.

ENCOURAGE AN MK TODAY WITH A CARD!

MISS ALICIA MARTIN - 11-4-94
Parents: Tom & Cynthia
Las Vegas

MR. CAMPBELL PUTNAM - 11-5-98
Parents: Tracy & Genie
Central & Eastern Europe

MR. JACOB S. LIGHTSEY - 11-8-91
Parents: Tim & Rebecca
Middle America

MISS NICOLE JOHNSON - 11-9-04
Parents: Daron & Judy
Last Frontier

MR. TAYLOR E. HODGINS - 11-19-98
Parents: Ray & Cynthia
Eastern South America

MR. CHUCK MULLINS - 11-26-98
Parents: Charles & Lynn
Western Europe

MR. JOSIAH PUTNAM - 11-30-03
Parents: Tracy & Genie
Central & Eastern Europe

Due to security reasons full names or region of service may not be published.

Due to security reasons in many countries, cards should not include any wording referencing church, Christian, God, missionary, etc.

*Cards will be forwarded.
No magazines or periodicals can be forwarded.*

Please send all to:

Child's name
Parent's name
MBCB wMu MK Birthdays,
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the wMu.

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Mission Trip to Mexico, Calvary Chapel Church, Parchman



2. True Love Waits, North Morton Church, Scott County



3. Mission Trip to Honduras, Kokomo Church, Kokomo

1. A group of 111 mission participants from 23 Mississippi churches attended a church service in Mexico, where they participated in the 15th annual Calvary Chapel Church, Parchman, summer mission to Mexico. Shown are the participants.
2. North Morton Church, Scott County, held a True Love Waits commitment and ring ceremony Aug. 12. Shown, standing, are Angela Sanders, Justin Westberry, and Presley Cannon; seated, Sheree Smith, Lisa Cannon, and Randi Taylor.
3. Jerrell and Dianna Pounds and Connie Holms from Kokomo Church, Kokomo, participated in a mission trip in July to Honduras. Shown are some of the children they ministered to in Bible school, with 200 attending nearly every day.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
copyrighted 2005

WR ZC FYDKY MYCD
HDM CBRIRVDIR, QRY
XYE WIRCBRIY, CBXC
CBIDMOB CBZN QXY ZN
LIRXABRE MYCD HDM
CBR VDIOZPRYRNN DV
NZYN.

XACN CBZICRRY: CBZICH-
RZOBC

Clue: O = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Three: Sixteen

Give your
church

Peace
this Christmas.

Americans charge approximately \$27 billion to their credit cards during the holiday season and Christmas will be here before you know it!

FPU is a biblically-based, video-driven small group study that teaches families to beat debt, build wealth and give like never before!

Dave Ramsey's
**Financial
Peace
University**

The average attendee pays off \$5300 and saves \$2700 in just 91 days! Help your church avoid debt and give like never before!

CALL TODAY
FOR A FREE PREVIEW DVD!

877-378-2667
OR GO TO DAVERAMSEY.COM/CHURCH



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

MS POSITIONS

FBC OLOH IS SEEKING a part-time music director to instruct choirs and lead worship services. Please call (601) 264-8868 or (601) 408-6005 or email fbcoloh@megagate.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

REASONABLY PRICED INSURANCE: Medicare supplements, major medical, & small group health insurance plans available for individuals & churches. Call Carra Turner (662) 231-4487 for rates or visit www.turnerinsuranceonline.com.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970. **AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE & beachfront** vacation condos. Fall specials, Gulf Shores & Orange Beach, Alabama, www.gulfshorescondos.com. Two night efficiency sleeps 4 beachside \$234. Four nights 2 bedroom sleeps 6 beachside \$428. Two nights 1 bedroom sleeps 6 beachfront \$328. Four nights 2 bedroom sleeps 6 beachfront \$461. Call (205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524. Shrimp festival weekend not included, expires 10/31/07.

HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705.

CHURCH FEW UPHOLSTERY, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

MOVING? MOAN & GROAN MOVERS, (601) 849-3259. You provide truck & boxes. We provide Labor.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) 992-2092, Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

QUIET GATLINBURG CABIN RETREAT: 2 bdrm — sleeps 6. Mt View from deck. Full kitchen, level entry, \$95/night. For Information: (251) 666-2175, (c) (251) 689-9982, email: pdw@worldnet.att.net.

SMOKE-FREE BRANSON, MISSOURI condo nightly rental. Like home, all new furnishings, street level, no steps, breathtaking view, sleeps 6, no pets. Call (888) 879-0388 or Bucmom71@aol.com.

CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE: 3.9 interstate, 3.9 in state. Ask about rates as low as 1.9 state to state. No monthly service charge. Call 1-866-587-8346 or www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldit.

HOMEcomings & REVIVALS

Academy Church, Tippah County: Homecoming, Sept. 23; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by noon meal and singing, 1:15 p.m.; Neil Clark, speaker; Reaves Family, music; Earl Barron, pastor.

Belden Church, Belden: Homecoming, Sept. 30; worship, 10 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Frank Harmon, speaker.

Cairo Church, Ecu: Homecoming, Sept. 9; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing; Bill Hardin, speaker; Four Him and Matthews Gospel, music; William Dowdy, pastor.

Clifton Church, Scott County: Homecoming, Sept. 16; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon and fellowship. Billy Henry, speaker; Tony Henry, pastor.

First Church, Purvis: 125th anniversary, Sept. 16; Bible study, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Harold O'Chester, Warren Langworthy, Frank Harmon, and Louis Nicolosi, speakers and guests.

Friendship Church, Aberdeen: 50th anniversary, Sept. 29-30; Sat., fellowship and meal, 6 p.m.; Sun., services, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; for more information, call (662) 369-6930.

Jackson Camp Church, Tishomingo: Revival, Sept. 9-12; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Randy Roberts, speaker.

Silver Creek Church, McComb: Revival, Sept. 8-12; Sat., concert with New Wine, 6:30 p.m.; Sun., worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m., with Monday children's night and Tuesday youth night, 5 p.m.; W.D. "Step" Martin, speaker; Price Harris, music.

MSAudio LLC

Design & Integration of Professional Audio, Video, & Lighting
Church, Conference Room, School
Equipment sales, service and installation

Trooper Hales
info@msaudiollc.com

P.O. Box 1575 Ph 601-923-9947
Clinton, MS 39060 Fax 601-924-2880

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



VBS, Faith Church, Hickory Flat

Faith Church, Hickory Flat: VBS parade, June 16, with 30 participants including cars, church van, trailers, four-wheelers, and horses. Shown are the participants prior to the parade.

1119 Mississippi Churches Can't Be Wrong.

More than 1100 churches throughout Mississippi put their faith in Wellington Associates for comprehensive insurance services including property, general, and specific liability, vehicle, workers compensation, and other coverages.

Wellington guarantees a quality program, customized for your ministry, at the most competitive premium rates.

For references and more
information, call Mike Brooks at
601-420-0174 or 1-800-442-0290.



COLLEGE NEWS

1. **Mississippi College** has shattered enrollment records with a fall enrollment of 4,564, besting last fall's enrollment of 4,162. Freshmen numbers rose from 450 last year to 528 this year. When president Lee Royce joined the college in 2002, there were nine international students; this year the number rose to 285.

2. **William Carey University** has named 28 students as William Carey University Scholars for the 2007-08 academic year. Each scholar will receive 30 hours of tuition a year, a room waiver, and their choice of either a Dell laptop computer or a cultural and sight-seeing tour of England. Scholars must have an ACT score of 29 or above or the SAT equivalent, show evidence of community service and leadership experiences, submit a biography, provide reference letters, reside on campus, and maintain a 3.5 GPA. Scholars include Corey Ray Adamo, Eryn Elizabeth Allange, Robert Charles Anderson, Jwala Bhatt, April Rose Breland, Kristen Nicole Dolan, Thomas William Duke, Berquin Daniel Feese, Sarah Beth Henderson, Gathel Caleb Hinton, Ruth Elizabeth Horton, Barbra Ellen Jablanski, Ame' TaLeah Karoly, Thomas Herold Lambert, Kayla Sue Longino, Benjamin Tyler Lott, Garrett Wood Magee, Amber Nicole McIntyre, Heather Meghann Mills, Joel Ashley Moore II, Jayce D'Nealian Miskel, Brandy Kaye Moorman, Deborah Lynn Seth, Shelley Lynn Songy, Victoria Anne Sparrow, Charles Nathan Tynes, Shellee Dawn Watson, and Raymond Mark-Eaton Wooten.

3. **C. Winfield (Windy) Rich** has made a donation of Fundamental Growth Class A stock valued at \$93,370.49 to the Mississippi State University Baptist Student Union in memory of Harold Douglas, his mentor and BSU director, 1941-45. Rich was selected as the MSU BSU Outstanding Alumnus of the Year in 1983. Rich has served Southern Baptist churches for over 60 years, serving as minister of education in eight churches, and has led Sunday School conferences nationally and worldwide. He has asked that the money be used to provide future students with the same ministry opportunities he received by providing additional space for expansion of the existing BSU facility or construction of a new BSU Center.



3. Rich

2. 28 Students named as WCU Scholars

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Feeling Anxious About the Future

Daniel 2:1-49 (Focal passages: 2:1-3, 27-29a, 36-44)

By Alice Smith

Can any of us say that we are not guilty of being anxious about future things? Whether we want to or not, we find ourselves worrying about things that will affect our future: the state of the economy; the availability of healthcare; loved ones and their futures; disease; war; terrorist threats; climate patterns resulting in earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes; national security; the future of our planet. The list goes on. Since the early days of history, people have worried about these things.

In the 2nd chapter of Daniel, we find that King Nebuchadnezzar has had a horrifying dream so great that the foundation of his spirit is troubled. He is consumed with the need to know what the dream means. As was the custom, he calls for

the most renowned magicians, and sorcerers in his kingdom to interpret the dream — but not only must they reveal the meaning, they must tell him what he actually dreamed! These mystical pretenders are dumbstruck. They must know the dream so that they can apply their human formulas to the interpretation. But the King accuses them of trickery and is so angry he calls for all the “wise men” in the kingdom to be destroyed.

When the soldiers come to kill Daniel, he uses the wisdom God has given him and petitions the king to give him time so that he might give the king his answer.

It is interesting to note that the first thing Daniel did was to form a prayer chain. He meets with Hananiah



Smith

(Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach), and Azariah (Abednego) and requests them to seek the mercy of God to reveal the secret of the dream.

God answers the prayers of his faithful servants. He revealed the dream and its meaning to Daniel that night.

Space does not permit printing the verses, but read the beautiful praise verses of 20-23 in which Daniel pours out his soul before God in a model prayer of thanksgiving.

When brought before the king, Nebuchadnezzar asks Daniel if he is able to tell him the dream and its meaning. Daniel says that he cannot. He then gives all the credit to God and proclaims the dynamic and ringing testimony of the One True God. He says in verses 27-28a (HCSB): No wise man, medium, diviner-priest, or astrologer is able to make known to the king the mystery he asked about. (28) But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has let

King Nebuchadnezzar know what will happen in the last days.” He then describes the dream and its meaning.

Nebuchadnezzar responds in verse 47 (HCSB) “Your God is indeed God of gods, Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, since you were able to reveal this mystery.” And he probably breathed a sigh of relief that the interpretation revealed that his reign was safe and would continue. That could have been all he was interested in hearing. He didn’t have to worry about his future. However, those kings that came after him would be a different matter. It would all topple and be destroyed.

Verses 44-45 state that the God of the Jews would establish His own Kingdom, a Kingdom that would never be destroyed, and would endure forever. It would not rest on military strength, but on divine power.

God is a personal God. God is sovereign over all human history and sovereign over our personal lives. He will bring about the completion of His plan in human history and He

asks from us faith and obedience so He can bring about the completion of His plan in us.

We must not be distracted by the cares of this world. He is in control. God is Love and He loves each of us, personally. He has planned a wonderful place in Heaven for those who believe in Him, trust Him, and seek to obey Him.

The directives of this lesson to the Christian are: (1) Ask for and receive God’s wisdom; (2) Pray for God’s guidance and deliverance; (3) Praise God for His answers and for the Truth of the majesty and glory of God; (4) Give God all the credit for everything in your life; (5) Speak the Truth of God always and rely on that truth.

God has given us His answer — His Light. Jesus is our Hope in this life and because of Him we live in joy and confidence no matter the circumstances around us. Brave words. Real words. Do you believe them? Experience them and see.

Smith is a member of First Church, Jackson.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

God’s Sinless Son

Matthew 3:13-4:11

By Michael Smith

We each face decisive moments in life that dictate who we are and what we become. We each face decisions that determine our priorities and confirm our values. We each face trials that test our commitment to what matters most. Jesus’ baptism and temptation in the wilderness were decisive moments for his life and ministry. Jesus’ baptism and temptation were moments that fortified his obedience to the Heavenly Father and substantiated his commitment to fulfilling God’s redemptive plan for the world.

Each day is decisive for you and me as disciples of Christ. Each day affords us the opportunity to fortify our obedience to the Heavenly Father and substantiate our commitment to living out his divine purposes for our lives. Each day is decisive because as disciples of

Christ we are to take up our cross DAILY and follow him (Luke 9:23). We should face those decisive moments in life with the same resolve of commitment and the same God-centered dependence in which Jesus faced his decisive moments. We should face each decisive day by applying the same principles that Jesus modeled in his baptism and temptation.

1. Commit to God (Matthew 3:13-17)

Jesus’ baptism was a decisive moment because it demonstrated his commitment to the Heavenly Father. Jesus was resolute in his commitment to fulfill God’s redemptive plan for the world. The resoluteness of his commitment was demonstrated by his baptism. If a commitment is genuine, it must be demonstrated in some manner. Most people would convey a resolute



Smith

commitment to personal health and well being. However, many people do not demonstrate that commitment through a healthy lifestyle of proper diet and exercise. Most people boldly declare a commitment to living a healthy life; however,

many people make that declaration with a mouth full of chocolate cake. Any commitment must be demonstrated in some manner if it is a genuine commitment. Jesus demonstrated his commitment to the Heavenly Father through his baptism. You and I can demonstrate our commitment to the Heavenly Father through everyday obedience.

2. Focus on God’s Word (Matthew 4:1-4)

Jesus’ temptation was a decisive moment because it demonstrated a dependent devotion to God’s Word. Jesus faced temptation from the Devil under dire circumstances. The odds certainly favored the tempter. The temptation took place in the harsh wilderness. The temptation took place after 40 days and 40 nights

of fasting. And finally, Satan resorted to dirty tactics, assailing Jesus with the toughest temptation known to man—FOOD! By all appearances the tempter had the upper hand. Jesus had nothing, except God’s Word treasured in his heart. This one factor proved to make all the difference in this decisive moment in Jesus’ life. Jesus resisted each of the tempter’s temptations by quoting scripture that he had memorized. You and I should face each decisive day with a dependent devotion to God’s Word. If God’s Word is a part of our everyday life, then surely everyday we will better discern the direction of God and the deception of Satan.

3. Recognize What God Wants (Matthew 4:5-7)

Jesus’ temptation was a decisive moment because it demonstrated his determination to follow God’s plan for his life. The Devil tested Jesus with the temptation of subverting God’s redemptive plan for the world. Just as Jesus declared to Mary at the wedding feast in Cana, “My time has not yet come,” he declared to the Devil “My time has not yet come” when he resisted the tempter’s proposed

spectacle. Jesus’ glory was to be realized on a common wooden cross, not in an angelic sideshow. Though we might not always fully perceive God’s plan or purpose for our lives, we do know that God desires and demands everyday obedience.

4. Refuse to Compromise (Matthew 4:8-11)

Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness was a decisive moment because it demonstrated his resolute refusal to compromise the glory of God. Having it all often costs you everything. Jesus could have had it all had he been willing to compromise and fall down and worship Satan. Jesus could have had it all but it would have cost him the delightful approval of the Heavenly Father. Jesus didn’t refuse to compromise because he fully understood the corrupt bankruptcy of Satan. Jesus refused to compromise because he fully understood the supreme worth of God. If we perpetually keep the supreme splendor of God before us, we will perpetually remember that God alone is worthy of worship.

Smith is pastor of Bethel Church, Monticello.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus-threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person’s address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST Record

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Deacon Ordination, Hopewell Church, Little Rock



2. Deacon Ordinations, Iuka Church, Iuka



3. Deacon Ordination, Oak Grove Church, Meridian



4. Deacon Ordinations, West End Church, West Point

1. Hopewell Church, Little Rock, ordained Artie Foreman as deacon Aug. 26. Shown are pastor Jimmy McDill and Foreman.

2. Iuka Church, Iuka, recently ordained Ryan Casabella and William Floyd as deacons. Shown are pastor Ronnie Hatfield, Casabella, and Floyd.

3. Oak Grove Church, Meridian, ordained Allen Carr as deacon Aug. 26. Shown are Carr, wife Kelly, son Micah Allen, and pastor and father-in-law Roy Dabbs.

4. West End Church, West Point, recently ordained Raymon Hodnett and Kevin Thompson as deacons. Shown are pastor Mike Mathena, Hodnett, Thompson, and Milton Ray.

5. Ingalls Avenue Church, Pascagoula, recognized 37 children for their participation in the ninth annual summer reading program at the church. The children read more than 1300 books in eight weeks, with awards and prizes being donated by local merchants. Top readers were Marissa Bosarge, John Jeter, Amber Jeter, David Gonzalez, Wyatt Falks, Lavory Falks, and Christyn Bosarge. Ninette Speights, director.

6. First Church McLaurin, Hattiesburg, averaged 80 participants during their Vacation Bible School. Two girls, Carley Lott and Melanie Linton, received Christ during VBS and requested to be baptized in Black Creek. Shown are pastor Neil Harvison, Lott, and Linton.

7. Branch Church, Morton, held its annual RA and GA recognition Aug. 22. Shown are the participants.

8. Concord Church, McCall Creek, sponsored a mission trip to the Navajo reservation near Gallup, N. Mex., July 23-27. Twenty-four team members representing three states, four associations, and six churches conducted two Backyard Bible Clubs each day. Over 100 children participated in the clubs. Shown are team members interacting with Navajo children.

9. Concord Church, Pelahatchie, will host Buddy Liles in concert Sept. 9, 7 p.m. A love offering will be received.

10. Central Church, Brandon, will host Glorybound Quartet Sept. 8, 6 p.m. Free admission.

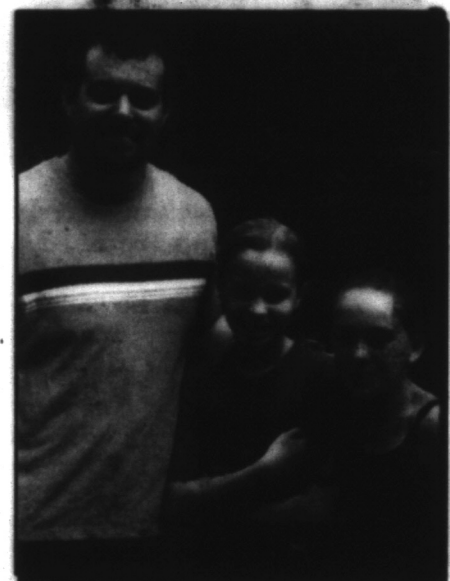
11. The Ladies' Ministry of Cleary Church, Florence, will host the Becoming the Passionate Bride of Christ



5. Summer Reading Program, Ingalls Avenue Church, Pascagoula

conference Sept. 14-15, 7 p.m. Friday-2 p.m. Saturday, for 9th through 12th grade girls and adults. Cost is \$20 which includes lunch. Cyndi Grace and Mary Moak, leaders. Registration ends Sept. 9. For more information, call (601) 845-2020 or email media@clearybaptist.org.

12. Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle, is hosting a gospel sing with The Professors and Legacy of Faith Sept. 22, 7 p.m. A love offering will be received, and a meal will be served at 6 p.m. (\$7/adults, \$4/children.) For more information, call (601) 583-2106 or (601) 550-4411.



6. Baptisms in Black Creek, First Church McLaurin, Hattiesburg



7. RA and Ga Recognition Service, Branch Church, Morton



8. Mission Trip to New Mexico, Concord Church, McCall Creek



LifeWay CHURCH BUSES

1-800-370-6130

carpenterbus.com

Carpenter

BUS SALES

America's #1 Church Bus Dealer